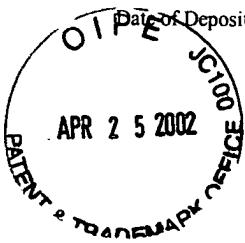


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#11  
RESPONSE  
② SMALLS-LOGAN  
5/14/02

Our Case No. 10290/17

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
Bonavita et al. )  
Serial No. 09/510,077 ✓ ) Examiner: P. Nguyen  
Filing Date: February 22, 2000 ) Group Art Unit No.: 2833  
For: ELECTRICAL CONNECTOR )

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed November 29, 2001, Applicants respectfully submit the following remarks.

Applicants would like to thank Examiners Tho Ta and Phuongchi Nguyen for the courteous and helpful discussion held with Applicants' representatives on March 18, 2002. During the discussion it was noted that the language of the claimed invention, and in particular, the "given cross-sectional one-way footprint," appears to distinguish the present invention over the cited art.

The present invention is directed towards electrical connectors, and more particularly, to miniature electrical connectors having superior alignment capabilities during assembly, increased contact density and ruggedness. Electrical connectors are used in multiple applications in many areas. Particularly prevalent is their use in devices such as automobiles, where the current emphasis has been on combining greater reliability, miniaturization and reduced cost.

Applicants have discovered that by designing an electrical connector which includes a contact

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